

## College Readiness Supplemental Study: A Closer Look at Dual Credit Students

### *Data Highlights*

#### Dual Credit Participation Exploding

- A majority of Indiana high school students now graduate with dual credit (by itself or in addition to Advanced Placement [AP] exam credit). In 2014, 52% (37,421 of 72,312 HS graduates) earned dual credit, an increase of almost 13 percentage points from 2012.
- Dual credit is the primary method of earning pre-college credit. Statewide, 77% of all pre-college credit earners were dual credit-only in 2014, up 11 percentage points from 2012. **(See Figure 1)**
- At the same time, the data show a decrease in the percentage of students who either did not earn pre-college credit or earned AP credit instead.

#### Dual Credit Narrowing Opportunity Gap

- Dual credit programs clearly are expanding opportunities for a wider range of students, as evidenced by the academic and demographic differences among pre-college credit earners.
- In contrast to the AP credit earner, dual credit-only students are more likely to be low-income and/or of a minority population. **(See Figure 2)**
- Dual credit-only students also are more likely than AP earners to have lower or no college entrance exam test scores and non-honor high school diplomas.

#### Dual Credit Related to Stronger College-Going and Performance Outcomes

- Compared to students who do not earn pre-college credit, dual credit-only students are more likely to enroll in postsecondary education within the year following high school graduation, and, at least for those attending Indiana public colleges, more likely to take full-time course loads and attend a four-year institution.
- Additionally, dual credit-only students demonstrate higher levels of college readiness (not requiring remediation), as well as higher average freshman GPAs, number of credits earned and sophomore year persistence rates than students without pre-college credit. **(See Figure 3)**
- Preparation and performance patterns for dual credit-only students are similar at both two-year and four-year institutions.

NOTES: Dual credit calculations only include credit hours awarded by Indiana public colleges to 2012-2014 high school graduates. Dual credit hours are recognized by both the high school and the postsecondary institution. Students earning dual credit from non-public colleges are not represented in this study.

“Pre-college credit” refers to Advanced Placement (AP) exam credit and/or dual credit awarded by Indiana public colleges

Sources: Indiana Commission for Higher Education; Indiana Department of Education, National Student Clearinghouse

Figure 1: Percentage of Pre-College Credit Earners by Credit Type

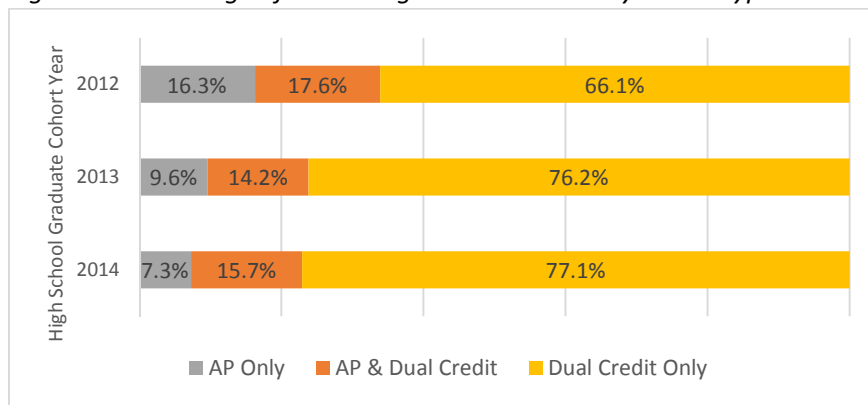


Figure 2: Select Demographic Profiles of Pre-College Credit Earners by Credit Type

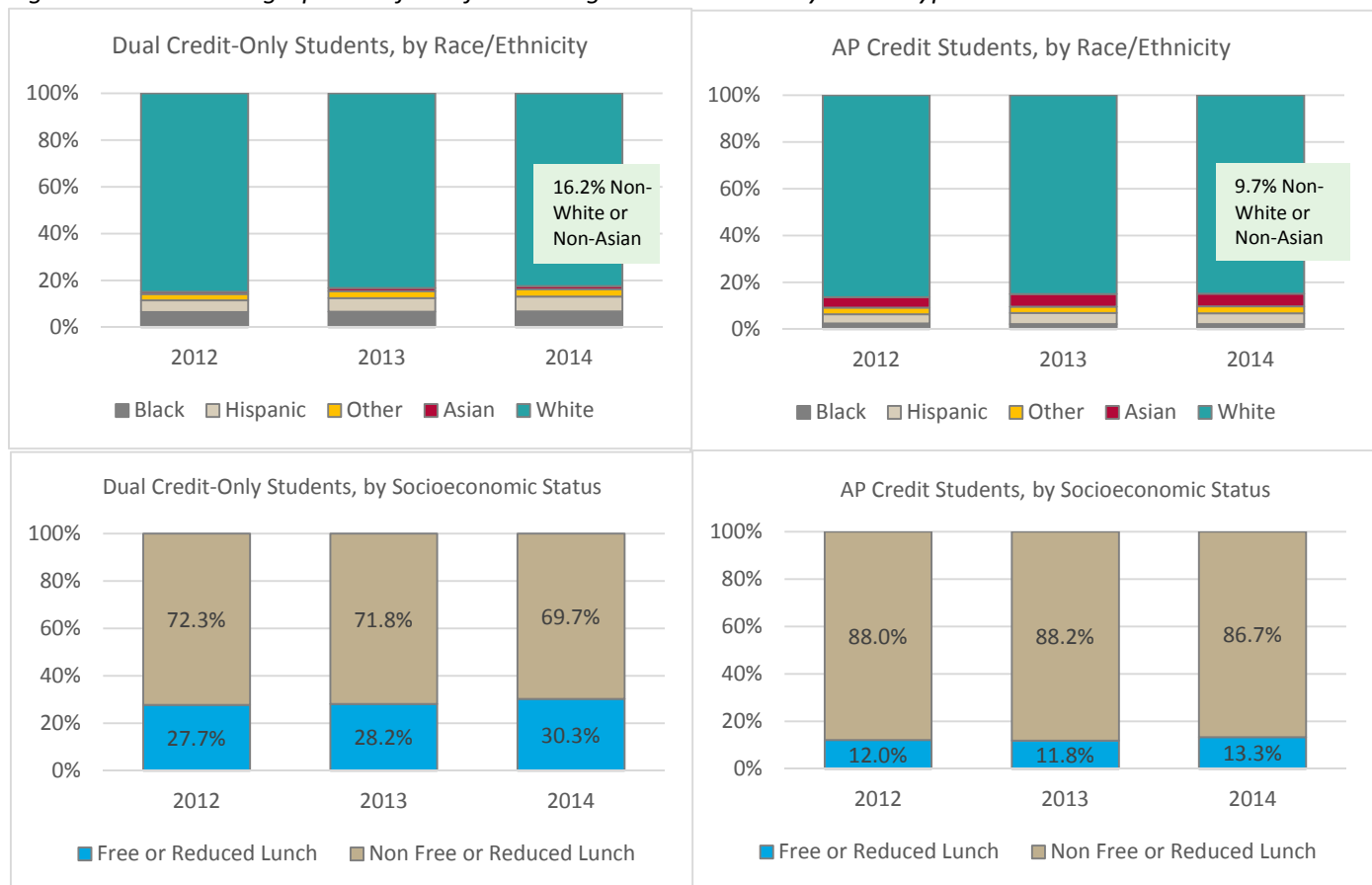


Figure 3: Select Academic Preparation and Performance Measures by Pre-College Credit Type

| Pre-College Credit Group\Cohort | Academic Preparation |       |                 |       | College Performance |      |                             |       |                         |       |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
|                                 | Remediation          |       | Undecided Major |       | Avg Freshman GPA    |      | Avg Freshman Credits Earned |       | Persistence to 2nd Year |       |
|                                 | 2012                 | 2014  | 2012            | 2014  | 2012                | 2014 | 2012                        | 2014  | 2012                    | 2013  |
| AP & Dual Credit                | 3.5%                 | 2.4%  | 12.8%           | 9.3%  | 3.2                 | 3.2  | 28.22                       | 28.84 | 93.6%                   | 94.0% |
| AP Only                         | 4.0%                 | 3.3%  | 12.4%           | 9.0%  | 3.1                 | 3.1  | 28.04                       | 27.77 | 92.1%                   | 92.4% |
| Dual Credit Only                | 23.1%                | 13.2% | 15.4%           | 11.4% | 2.6                 | 2.6  | 22.16                       | 22.39 | 78.9%                   | 79.3% |
| Neither                         | 42.5%                | 32.4% | 15.8%           | 10.6% | 2.3                 | 2.2  | 17.26                       | 16.53 | 65.7%                   | 63.4% |